CHAPTER 159
SNOWFLAKES DANCING IN THE MOONLIGHT

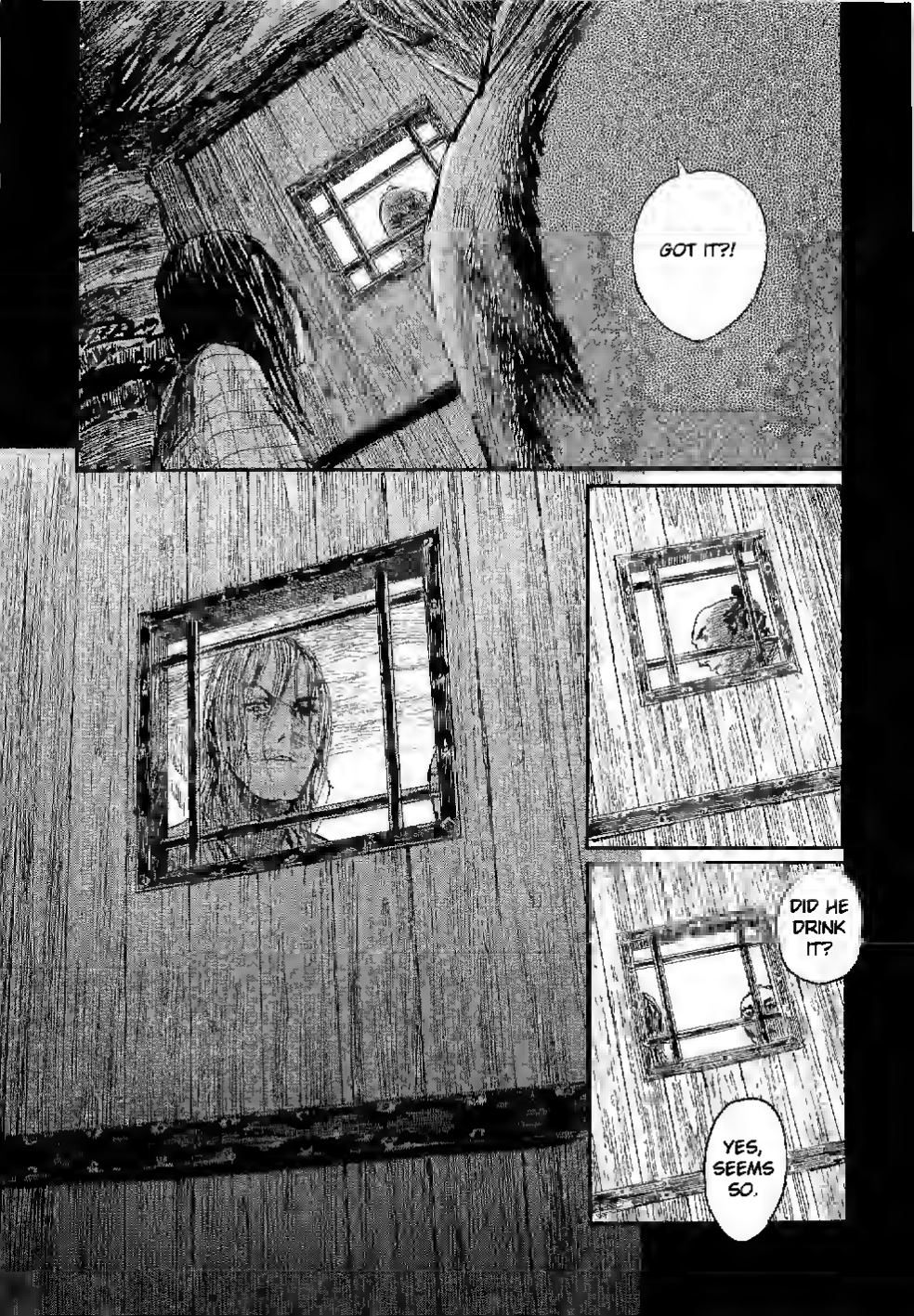
❖第百五十九幕❖

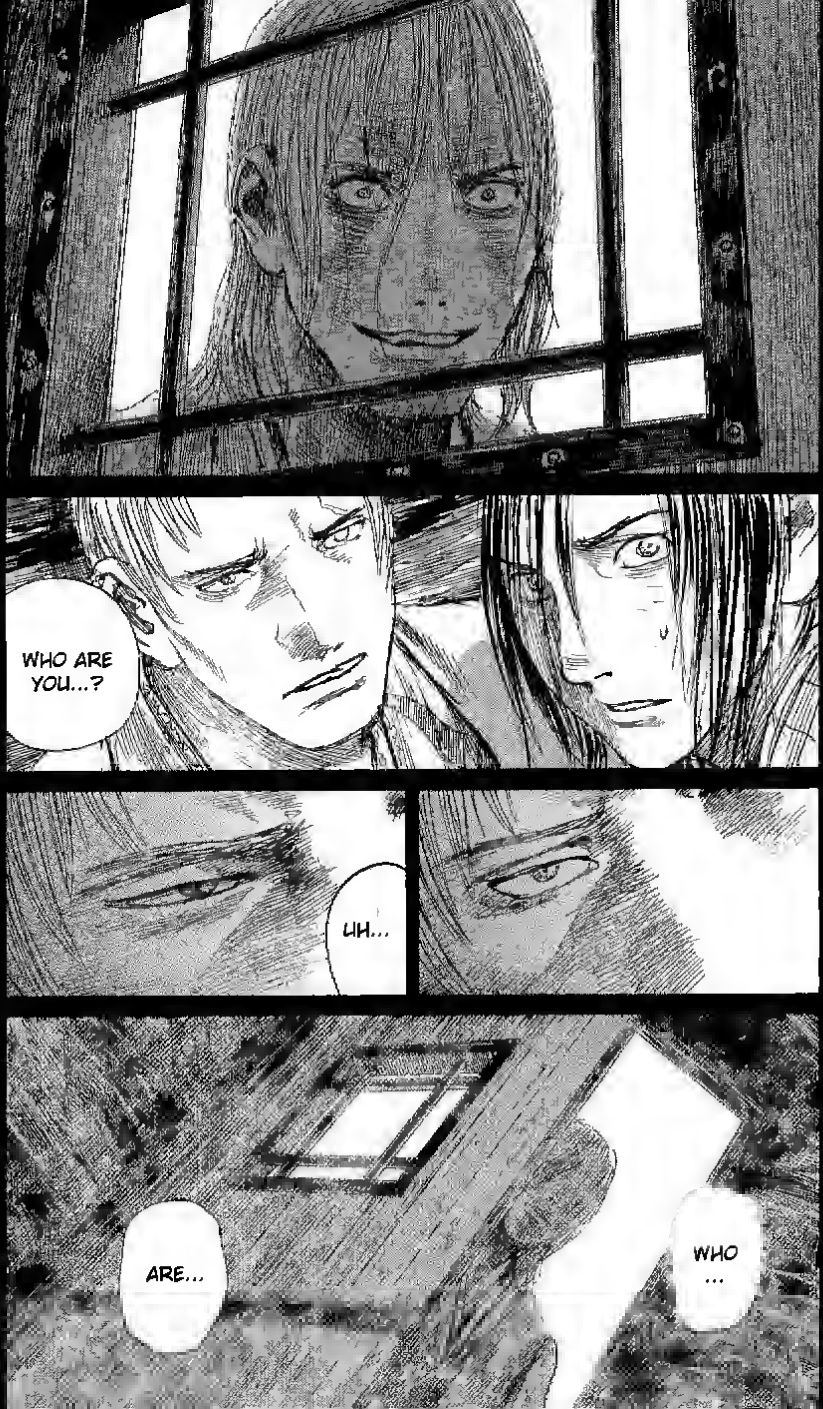
風花雪月

SO YOU'VE BEEN TRICKED BY THEM
WELL, I SEE.
...WEREN'T MY COMRADES THEY ARE NOTORIOUS VAGABONDS.
THOSE TWO...
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FINISH HIM. NOT KIDDING!
THE GUY IS NUTS. YOU CAN HIT HIM, STAB HIM WHATEVER YOU LIKE...

WHAT WAS HIS NAME?
ARAYA.
... ABOUT YOUR FATHER ...
IT'S TOO BAD ...
LOSING AN ARM...
... THAT'S NO BIG DEAL!
ごくっ。
HIS FATHER WAS ARAYA KAWAKAMI...
DID YOU KNOW HIM?
YES, I KNEW HIM.
MANJI KILLED HIM FOR SURE...
ARAYA KAWAKAMI WAS ITTO RYU ....

INTERESTING... I SURE PICKED THE RIGHT BOY.
MANJI, RIN, ITTO-RYU... HE HE HE!
?
BAH! THIS STINKS REALLY BAD ....
!
MEDICINE? AND I'M SUPPOSED TO DRINK THIS SHIT?!
HEY! YOU CAN'T JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!
POUR THAT STUFF AWAY!
Y-YES ...


GOT IT?!
DID HE DRINK IT?
YES, SEEMS SO.

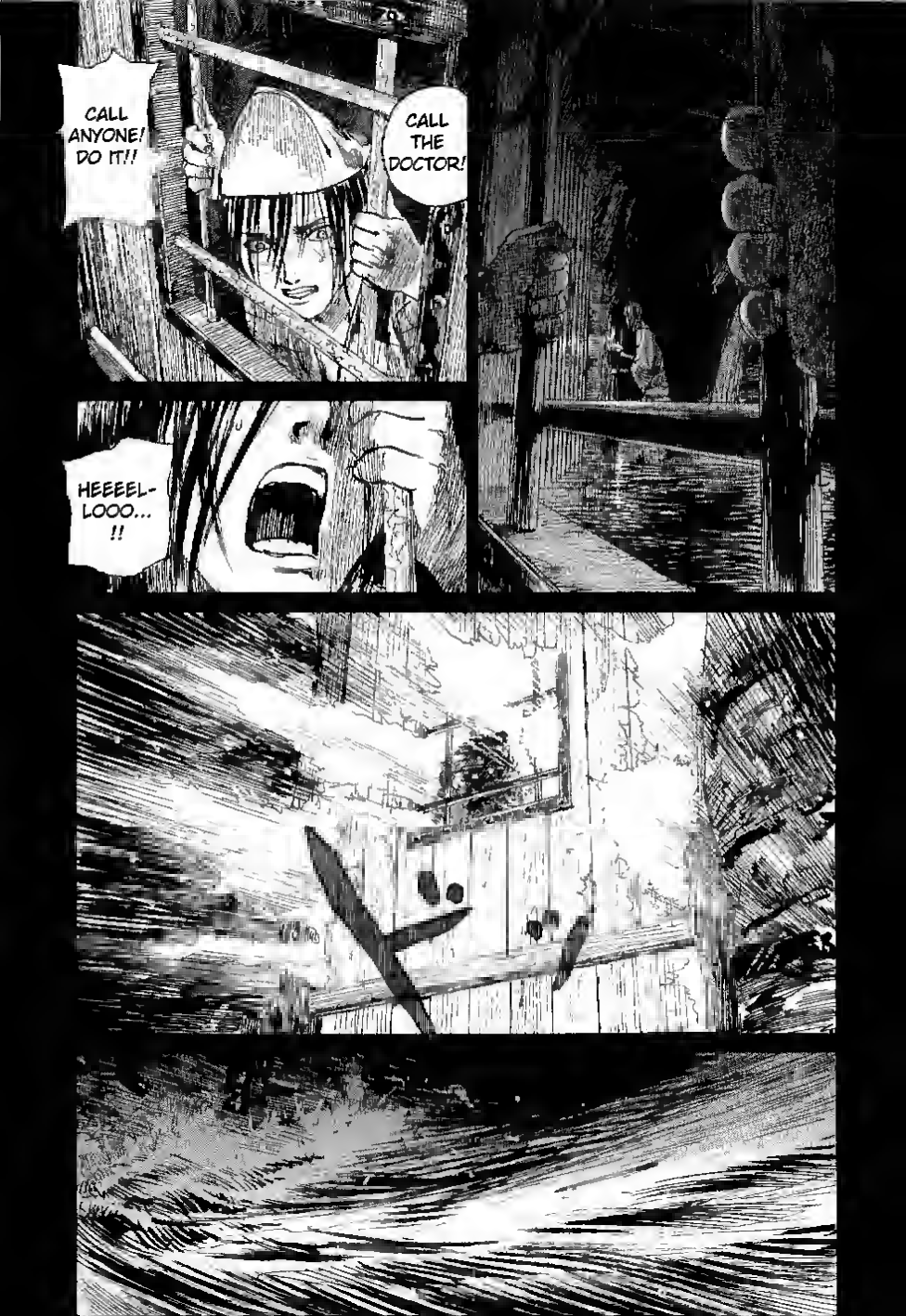

WHO ARE YOU...?
UH...
ARE...
WHO ...

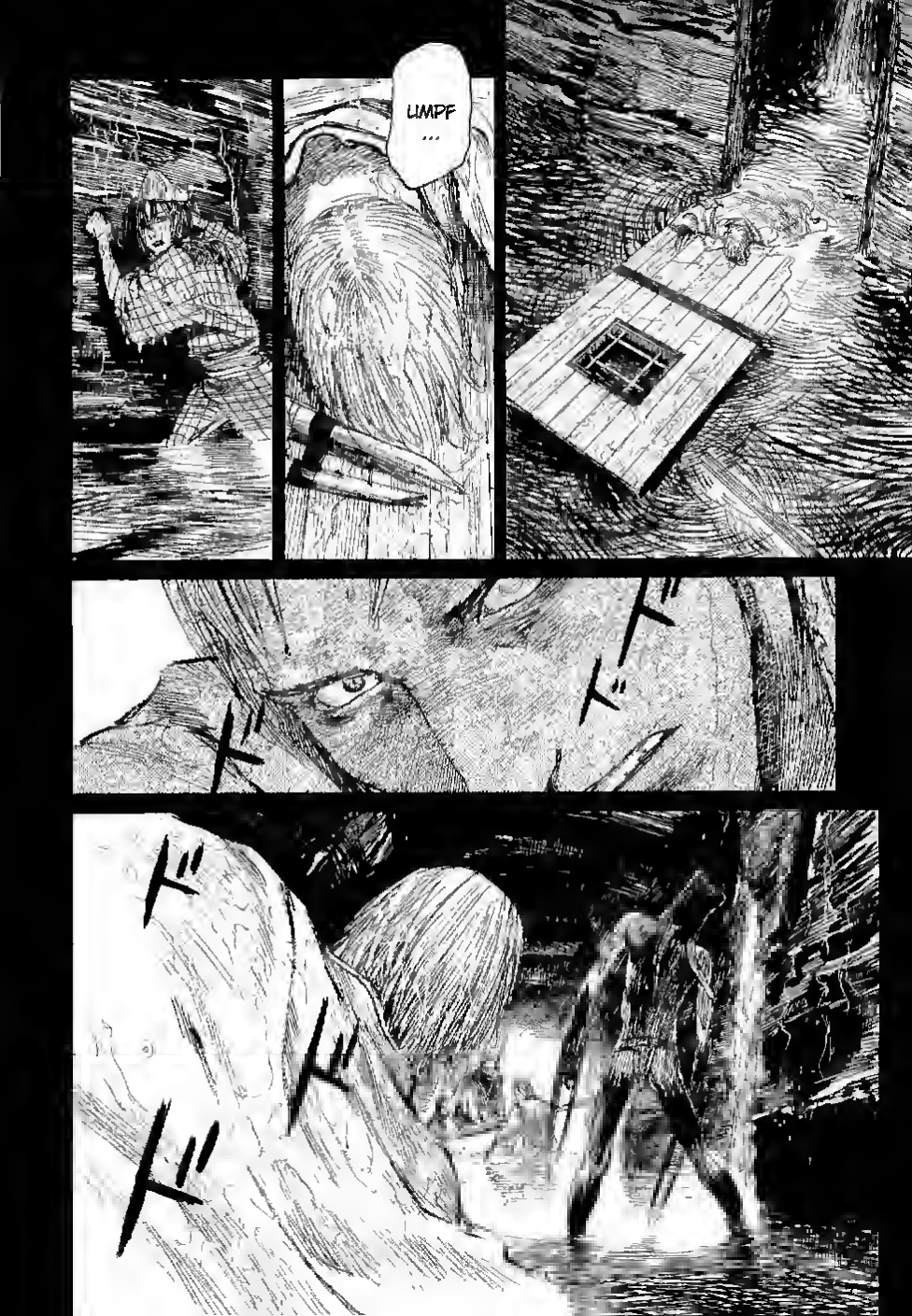
IT'S SO COLD...!
URRG ...
RENZO BRING ME HOT WATER...!
RENZO! HOT WATER!
WHAT IS THIS...?!
WHA ...

THAT SCAR...?
WHAT DID THEY DO TO MY LEG?
WAIT ...
IS THAT ACTUALLY MY LEG?!
RENZO! HOT WATER...!
THIS TIME IT'S THE LEFT LEG...

FUCK!
KCH...
A HEADACHE IS NO REASON AT ALL TO BE UPSET...
WHAT IS THIS HEAD-ACHE?!
THAT'S ODD.
THEY'RE REALLY MAKING A NOISE OVER THERE TODAY...
SHIT...

WHAT THE HECK?! WHERE'S THAT WATER COMING FROM?!
COME ONE, MOVE YOUR ASS!
IS NOBODY GUARDING THE DOOR?
WHERE ARE THE GUARDS, ..?!


CALL ANYONE! DO IT!!
CALL THE DOCTOR!
HEEEEL-LOOO... !!


UMPF
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WHAT IS THIS?!
WHA...

MUHAHA
HAHA
HAHA
HAHA
!!!!!

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YOU KNOW, MANJI..

SHIRA!

THAT FEELING IS AMAZING.

NOW I FIGURED IT OUT.

HAAAAA!!?
AAAH!!

GWA
...

DAAH!!
HOOO!!...

SFX. KYAAA
UNGH ...

KCG
..
URG
..
I'M NOT EVEN TALKING ...
... ABOUT ...
...YOUR PHYSICAL FEATURE...
...IT'S ALSO YOUR WAY OF THINKING, MANJI.

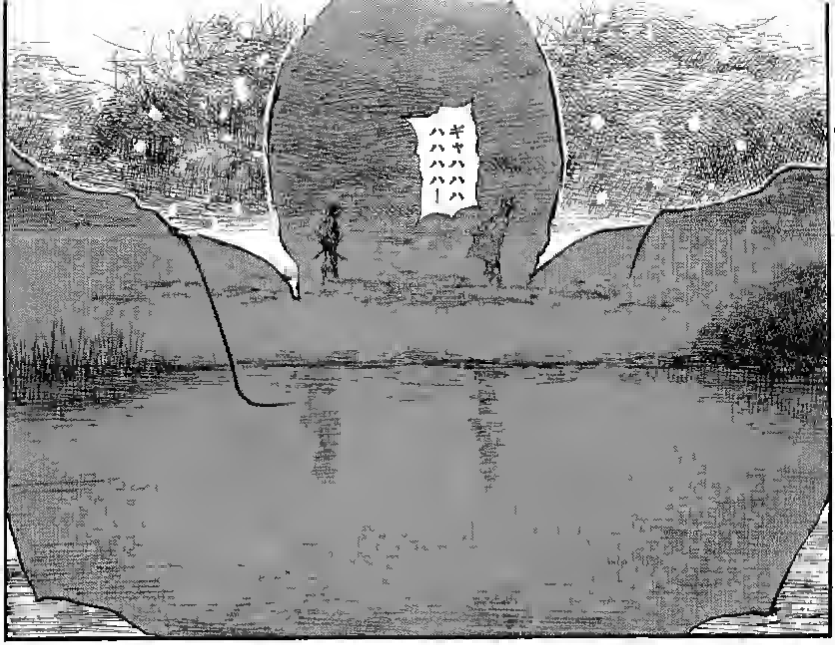
YOU THOUGHT THAT I WAS MISSING MY LEFT ARM..
.. AND THAT MY RIGHT ONE WAS USELESS ANYWAY
I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN PLOTTING WHEN WE MET TODAY.
AND SLIT MY THROAT IN RETURN. THAT'D BE IT.
YOU'D ONLY HAD TO COUNTER MY ATTACKS...
THAT I COULD PIERCE AND DRILL WITH IT AS MUCH I WANT, BUT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO KILL YOU.
IT WOULD BE EASY FOR YOU... WITH YOUR GREAT WEAPON.
ALTHOUGH YOU BEING ONE-ARMED YOURSELF...

BUT I'M NOT MISSING MY LEFT ARM AND I'M ARMED WITH A SWORD!
BESIDES THAT, I'M IMMORTAL LIKE YOU.
WHAT NOW?
SINCE YOU'RE WORSE OFF THAN I AM NOW, THAT DILEMMA MUST BE PARTICULARLY BAD FOR YOU.
QUITE A DOUBLE BIND, HUH?
FOR EXAMPLE ...
IT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO INCAPACITATE ME
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO KILL ME STRAIGHT AWAY, RIGHT?
KILLING ME WILL BE HARD.

HE, HE, HE...
IN OTHER WORDS, MANJI...
OR THE HEAD...
...BY CUTTING OFF MY ARM OR LEG.
SINCE YOU'VE ONLY GOT YOUR RIGHT ARM...
...THERE ARE EXACTLY THREE OPTIONS.
YOU COULD CUT OFF MY LEFT LEG...
OR MY LEFT ARM...
...OR MY HEAD. THAT'S ALL.

...THAT I HAVE TO BE AWARE OF ONLY THESE THREE THINGS.
THE OTHER WAY ROUND MEANS...
BWAH, HA, HA, HAAA!

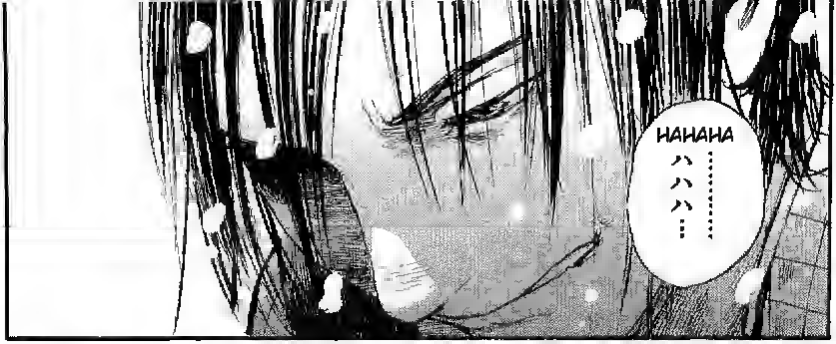
GOOD THING, HUH?
I LOVE SEEING YOUR FACE LIKE THIS! THAT'S REALLY...
SHIRA!
WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT?!
THAT STILL DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU CAN'T KILL ME WITH YOUR BONE DAGGER..
...WHEN I HOLD IT OFF WITH MY SWORD.
HM? WELL ...
THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE.
WELL, I DON'T CARE.
IT'S STILL...



SHIRA: BWA HAHA HAHA !!

REN...
REN-ZO...
HN GH...
I-I DON'T KNOW...
L-LISTEN...
A-ARE YOU HERE...?
...IS DAN-GER-OUS...!
B-BUT SHIRA...
...ALLIED WITH THAT GUY.
..H-HOW YOU...

THAT GUY...
...HIS A MENACE.. TO EVERYONE...
WHO HAS TO... DEAL WITH HIM.
E-EVEN IF HE... DEFEATS M-MANJI...
...HE SURELY WON'T L-LET Y...
YOU... HAVE... TO FLEE...
RENZO
...
RENZO... P-PLEASE... FLEE...!


HAHAHA
ハハハ……

OH WELL...!
ハハハハ……!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.

I CAN'T FALL ANY DEEPER ...!
CHAPTER 159 END

CHAPTER 160
DISQUISITION ON TRANSPLANTATION
-SUPPLEMENT-

❖第百六十幕❖

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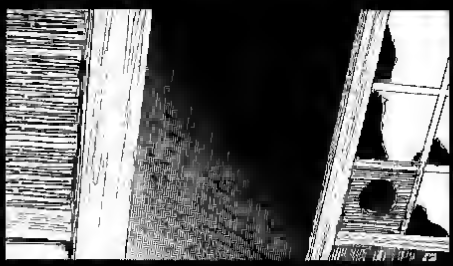

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IS SHIRA HERE?

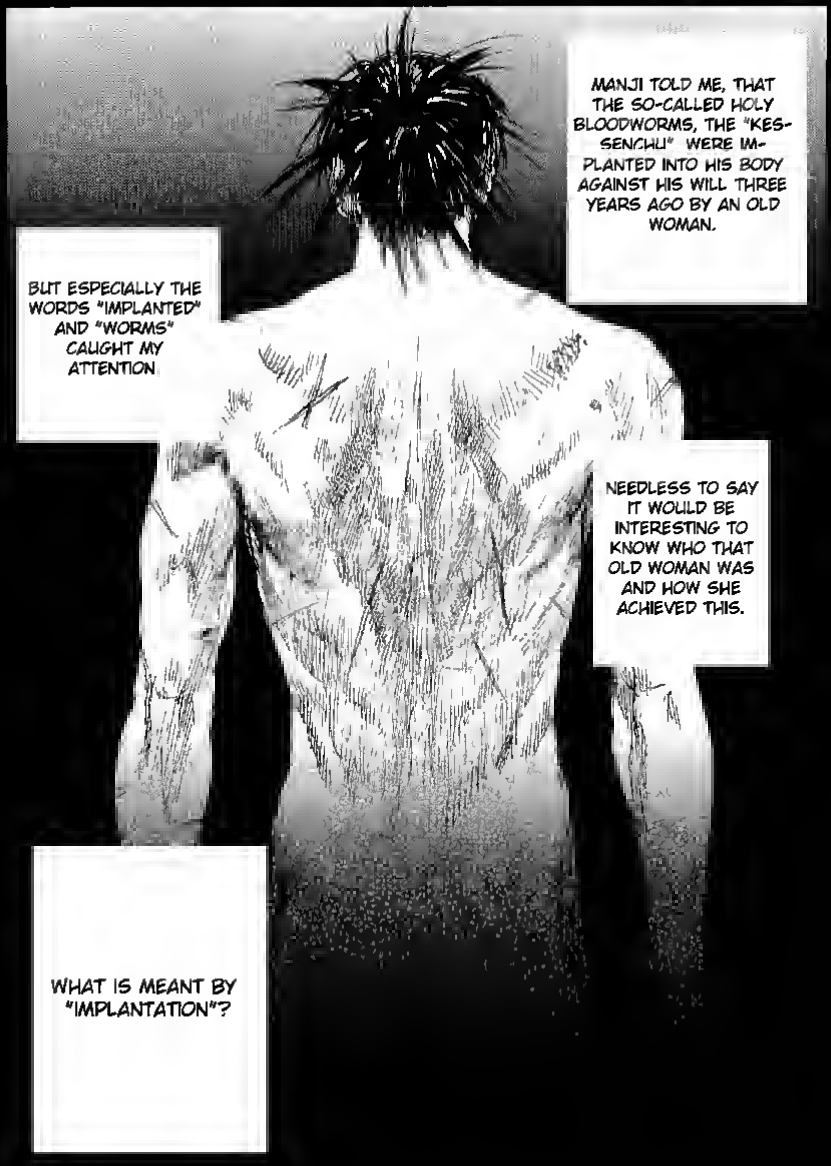
IDIOT!
TO FLEE IS USE-LESS!
HEY, RENZO!
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A PLACE TO GO TO!

MITAKE-SAN...
THAT'S YOUR NAME, RIGHT?

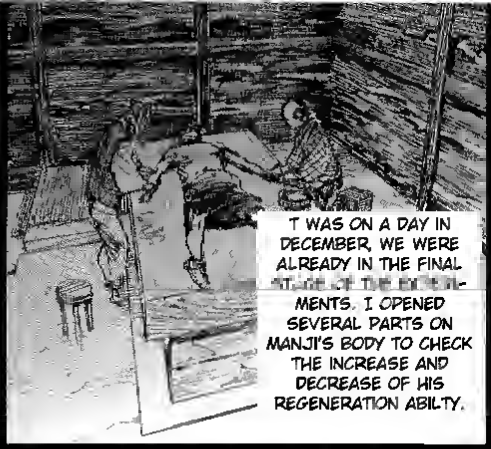
HERE'S A SWORD FOR YOU!
MAKE GOOD USE OF IT!
THE HUNDRED MAN KILLER AND THE GIRL ARE FOLLOWING ITTO-RYU ALONG MITO ROAD.
READ IT AS SOON AS I'M GONE.
THERE'S A LETTER ON ITS HILT.
KILL BOTH!
IT'S THE RECENT LETTER FROM COURT'S DOCTOR BURANDO AYAME TO HABAKI-SAMA. I MADE A COPY.

THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU.
THE LETTER CONTAINTS EVERYTHING ESSENTIAL ABOUT THE IMMORTALITY EXPERIMENTS.
WE'LL NEVER MEET AGAIN
IT ALSO INCLUDES A PASSPORT.
IF YOU FULFILLED YOUR ORDER, YOU CAN SETTLE WHERE YOU WANT.

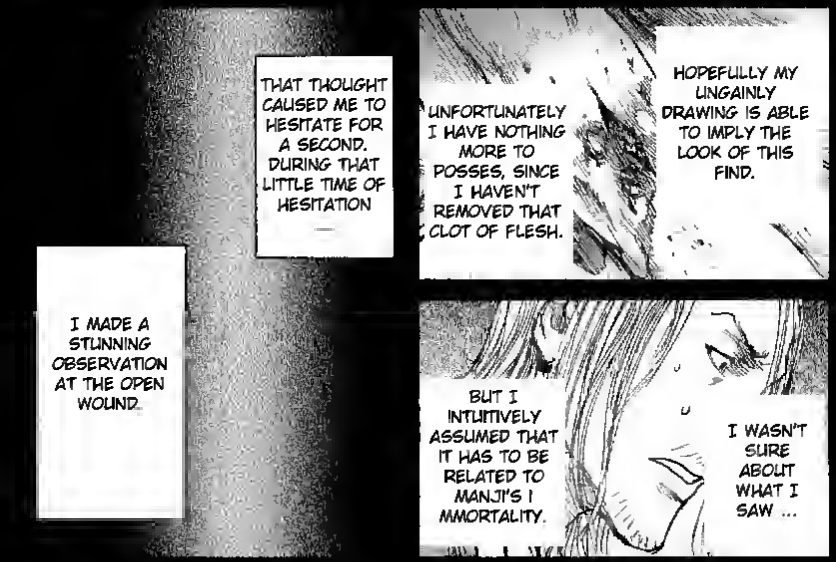
DISQUISITION ON TRANSPLANTATION
BUT I CHANGED MY MIND. IT WOULD BE AGAINST HUMANITY TO ABANDON THE WORLD, WITHOUT INFORMING SOMEONE ABOUT THE RECORDS' CONTENT.
I ALLOWED MYSELF TO BURN ALL RECORDS ABOUT THE EXPERIMENTS, WHICH COST FAR TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT FUNDS AND FAR TOO MUCH HUMAN LIVES
HONORABLE HABAKI-SAMA, IN MY LAST LETTER SEVERAL THINGS WERE LEFT UNMENTIONED, WHICH LEAVE ME NO PEACE. PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR BOTHERING YOU AGAIN WITH A LETTER.
THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT THE "IMMORTALITY"!
WHICH I GAINED DURING THAT DISASTROUS TIME, AT LEAST TO YOU.
THIS IS WHY I CAN'T REFRAIN FROM REPORTING MY KNOWLEDGE,


MANJI TOLD ME, THAT THE SO-CALLED HOLY BLOODWORMS, THE "KESSENCHU" WERE IMPLANTED INTO HIS BODY AGAINST HIS WILL THREE YEARS AGO BY AN OLD WOMAN.
BUT ESPECIALLY THE WORDS "IMPLANTED" AND "WORMS" CAUGHT MY ATTENTION
NEEDLESS TO SAY IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW WHO THAT OLD WOMAN WAS AND HOW SHE ACHIEVED THIS.
WHAT IS MEANT BY "IMPLANTATION"?

ON HIS LEFT ARM I DISCOVERED A PECULIAR CLOT OF FLESH.

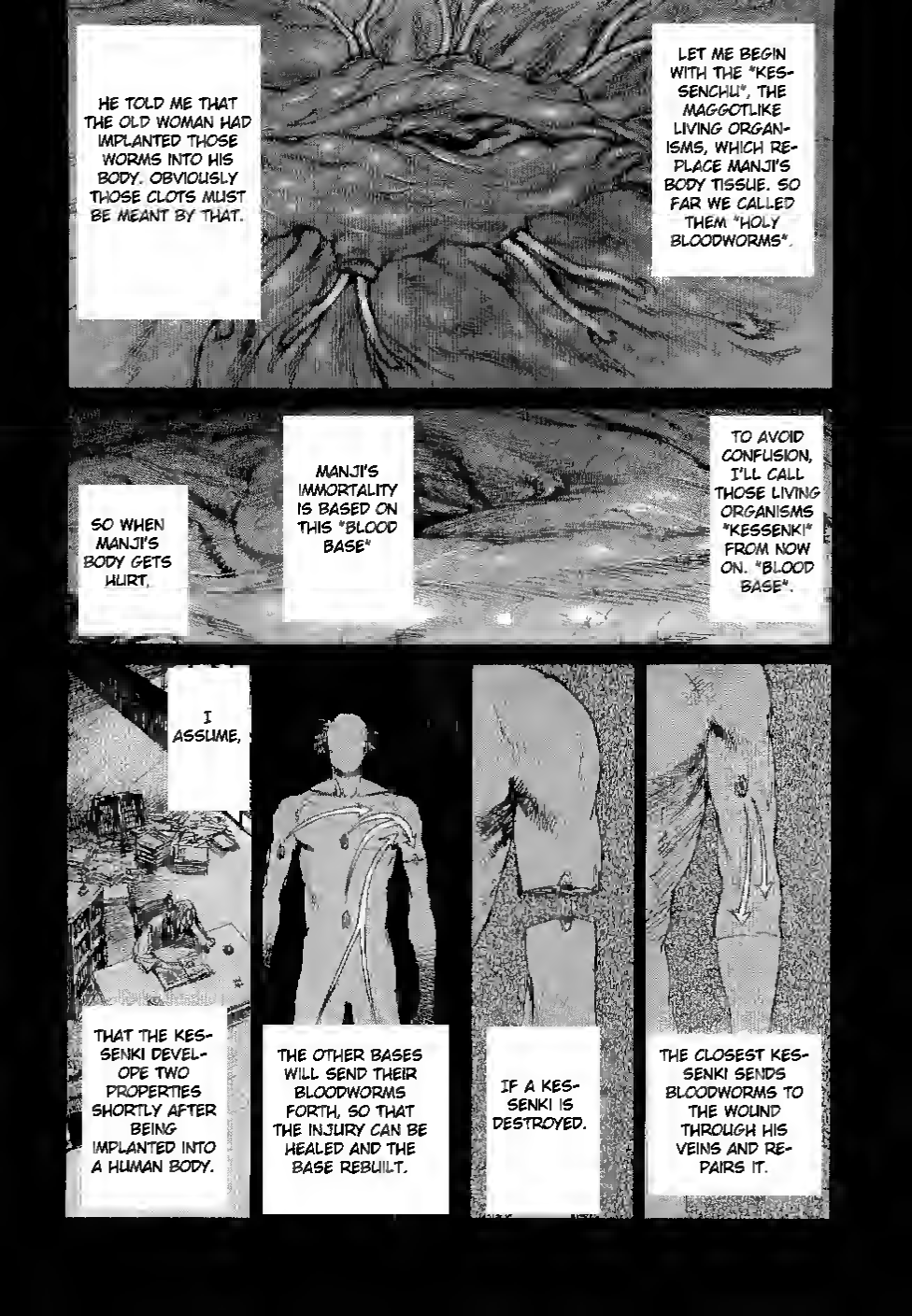

T WAS ON A DAY IN DECEMBER, WE WERE ALREADY IN THE FINAL
MENTS. I OPENED SEVERAL PARTS ON MANJI'S BODY TO CHECK THE INCREASE AND DECREASE OF HIS REGENERATION ABILTY.

BUT AS IT DIDN'T CONSIST OF HIS OWN FLESH AND BLOOD.. BUT RATHER BEING A DIFFERENT LIVING ORGANISM.
AT FIRST SIGHT IT SEEMED LIKE A PART OF MANJI'S BODY.


THAT THOUGHT CAUSED ME TO HESITATE FOR A SECOND. DURING THAT LITTLE TIME OF HESITATION
I MADE A STUNNING OBSERVATION AT THE OPEN WOUND.
UNFORTUNATELY I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO POSSES, SINCE I HAVEN'T REMOVED THAT CLOT OF FLESH.
HOPEFULLY MY UNGAINLY DRAWING IS ABLE TO IMPLY THE LOOK OF THIS FIND.
BUT I INTUITIVELY ASSUMED THAT IT HAS TO BE RELATED TO MANJI'S I MMORTALITY.
I WASN'T SURE ABOUT WHAT I SAW ...

BEFORE I KNEW IT, 90 PERCENT OF THE WOUND WAS CLOSED IN A MIRACULOUS WAY AND TOOK ON NORMAL SKIN COLOUR
WITHIN SECONDS THAT FOAM FILLED THE WHOLE WOUND.
SUDDENLY A FOAMLIKE SUBSTANCE APPEARED ON THE CLOT'S SURFACE.
SO THAT FOAMLIKE SUBSTANCE WAS WHAT WE CALLED "KESSEN-CHU".
YOU CAN SURELY IMAGINE HOW OVERJOYED I FELT INSIDE.
SO I CON-DUCTED MORE CUTS ON MANJI'S BODY.
..THERE HAD TO BE MORE OF THEM.
IF THIS CLOT OF FLESH SPAWNED THOSE BLOOD-WORMS...
AGAIN I WAS EMBRACED BY A CERTAIN FORE-SHADOW-ING

BUT BASED ON THESE FINDING, I WAS ABLE TO HYPOTHESIZE
I STILL CAN'T CONCLUDE IF THESE ARE ALL PARTS IN WHICH THEY APPEAR.
...ON BOTH UPPER ARMS AND THIGHS, AS WELL AS BELOW THE HEART AND ABOVE THE BLADDER.
MY ASSUMPTION TURNED OUT TO BE RIGHT
WITHIN TWO HOURS I DISCOVERED SIX MORE OF THESE CLOTS...
BUT PLEASE DON'T FORGET THAT THESE ARE STILL THEORETICAL ASSUMPTIONS!
WITH IT, THE SUCCESSES AND FAILURES OF OUR EXPERIMENTS CAN BE EXPLAINED IN A SATISFACTORY MANNER.
THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS ARE BASED ON THIS HYPOTHESIS.
HABAKI-SAMA...


HE TOLD ME THAT THE OLD WOMAN HAD IMPLANTED THOSE WORMS INTO HIS BODY. OBVIOUSLY THOSE CLOTS MUST BE MEANT BY THAT.
LET ME BEGIN WITH THE "KESSENCHU", THE MAGGOTLIKE LIVING ORGANISMS, WHICH REPLACE MANJI'S BODY TISSUE. SO FAR WE CALLED THEM "HOLY BLOODWORMS".
SO WHEN MANJI'S BODY GETS HURT,
MANJI'S IMMORTALITY IS BASED ON THIS "BLOOD BASE"
TO AVOID CONFUSION, I'LL CALL THOSE LIVING ORGANISMS "KESSENKI" FROM NOW ON. "BLOOD BASE".
I ASSUME,
THAT THE KESSENKI DEVELOPE TWO PROPERTIES SHORTLY AFTER BEING IMPLANTED INTO A HUMAN BODY.
THE OTHER BASES WILL SEND THEIR BLOODWORMS FORTH, SO THAT THE INJURY CAN BE HEALED AND THE BASE REBUILT.
IF A KESSENKI IS DESTROYED.
THE CLOSEST KESSENKI SENDS BLOODWORMS TO THE WOUND THROUGH HIS VEINS AND REPAIRS IT.

PRIMARILY IMPORTANT IS THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE HOST'S BODY.
ON ONE HAND THEY ARE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THEIR HOST'S BODY.
ON THE OTHER HAND THEY HAVE THE ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE HOW MANY KESSENKI ARE LEFT IN THE BODY.
BUT THE BLOODWORMS AREN'T ABLE TO REBUILD THE LOST KESSENKI IN THE FOREIGN ARM.
SO NOW MANJI'S BODY WILL SEND A BIG AMOUNT OF BLOODWORMS TO THE LOCATION, WHERE B'S ARM HAS BEEN PUT ON, TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE.
LET'S ASSUME WE'VE REPLACED MANJI'S RIGHT ARM WITH THE ARM OF OUR TEST SUBJECT B.
THIS COGNITION I DERRIVE FROM OUR EXPERI-MENT'S FAILURES.
JUST AS,
THE KESSENKI IN MANJI'S ARM, WHICH WAS PUT ON B'S BODY, ISN'T ABLE TO REBUILD THE OTHER 5 KESSENKI.

THE KESSENKI'S ABILITY TO MUTUALLY REPAIR,
CAN ONLY DEVELOPE IN THEIR HOST'S BODY.
OF COURSE ANY HUMAN BODY, IN WHICH VARIOUS BLOODWORMS ARE CIRCULATING,
CAN DEVELOPE THE ABILITY TO BE KIND OF IMMORTAL.
BUT SINCE THE SOURCE OF THOSE WORMS IS MISSING, THEIR IMMORTALITY IS ONLY TEMPORARY.
AS SOON AS THE BLOODWORMS EXPEND AFTER HEALING THE BODY, THEY'LL BECOME MORTAL AGAIN
ALL OF OUR "SUCCESSES" WE ACHIEVED DURING OUR EXPERIMENTS, FALL IN THAT CATEGORY.
WELL, HABAKI-SAMA...
I ASSUME THAT AT THIS POINT ONE GENERAL QUESTION ARISES...
IS IT ACTUALLY POSSIBLE ...
.... TO PASS MANJI'S IMMORTALITY ON OTHER HUMANS?

MORE PRECISELY ...
IF THE PERSON'S BLOOD IS COMPATIBLE WITH MANJI'S AND ANOTHER QUALIFICATION IS FULLFILLED, EVERYBODY'S ABLE TO BECOME IMMORTAL.
THAT'S A DIFFICULT QUESTION.
I WOULD SAY, IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE.
YOU HAVE TO TRANSPLATE AN ARM OR LEG...
OF MANJI PERMANENTLY ON ANOTHER HUMAN'S BODY.
THAT'S THE ONLY SAFE METHOD TO OBTAIN THE KESSENKI'S BLESSING TO ANOTHER PERSON.
I DON'T WANT TO APPEAR ARROGANT, BUT THIS METHOD IS AMAZINGLY SIMPLE.
WE DID SEE IT ALREADY SO MANY TIMES.
OF COURSE THEIR ABILITY OF REGENERATION WON'T BE OF SAME QUALITY AS MANJI'S, WHO HAS GOT MORE BASES.
BUT AS LONG AS THE PERSON DOESN'T LOSE THE TRANSPLANTED BODY PART, HE MIGHT BE CALLED IMMORTAL.

UP TO THIS POINT I DECLARED YOU.
WHICH ARE LEADING BACK TO EVEN BEFORE WE STARTED THE IMMORTALITY EXPERIMENTS.
BUT I CAN'T END IT HERE. THERE ARE STILL SERIOUS DOUBTS IN FACT, THOSE ARE FUNDAMENTAL DOUBTS.
HOW MANJI'S PHYSICAL REGENERATION WORKS IN MY OPINION.

THE PRINCIPLED QUESTION IS...
IS MANJI REALLY IMMORTAL AND DOES NOT AGE?
... CONCERNING ...
HIS AGING CAN'T BE ANSWERED YET, SINCE MANJI'S BEEN IN HIS PRESENT CONDITION FOR ONLY 3 YEARS NOW.
THE QUESTION...
ACCORDING TO MY CONSIDERATIONS, MANJI'S IMMORTALITY IS IN NO CASE ABSOLUTE.
BUT CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF HIS IMMORTALITY, I ALREADY CAME TO A DETERMINATION.
THESE RESTRAINTS ARE UNAVOIDABLE, SINCE BLOODWORMS OR KESSENKI ARE LIVING ORGANISMS.
THERE ARE SEVERAL SINGLE METHODS, BY WHICH IMMORTALS ARE ABLE TO DIE.

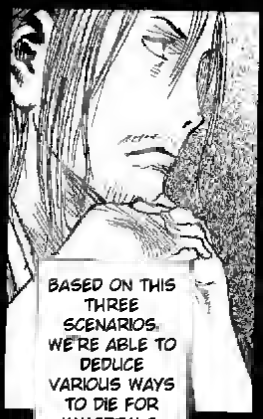
THE BLOODWORMS ARE LIVING IN A PARASITIC WAY IN THEIR HOST'S BODY. IF THE PERSON DOESN'T GET FOOD OR AIR, THE KESSENKI LOSE THEIR LIVELIHOOD.
FIRST: A LONG TIME WITHOUT FOOD OR AIR SUPPLY.

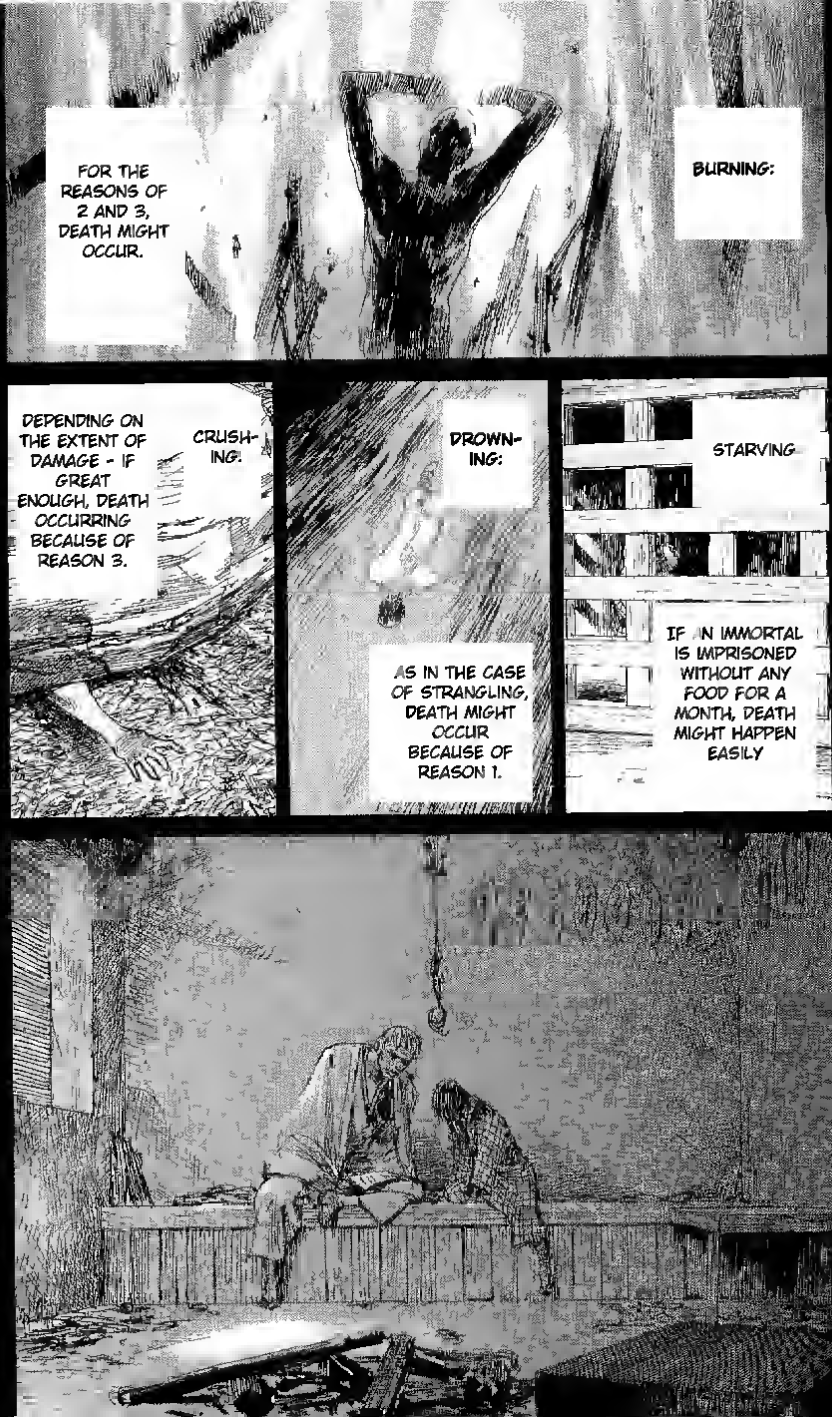
SUPPOSEDLY THE BLOODWORMS DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO SAVE THE HOST'S BODY FROM SUCH DANGER.
SECOND: A CASE OF AN EXTREME INCREASE OR DECREASE OF TEMPERATURE.

IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE HEART OR THE LUNG IS COMPLETELY TORN TO PIECES, DEATH MIGHT OCCURE BEFORE THE KESSENKI ARE ABLE TO REGENERATE.
THIRD: SUDDEN DESTRUCTION OF LARGE AMOUNTS OF BODY TISSUE CAUSING GREAT DAMAGE TO VITAL PARTS.

ROUGHLY SAID THERE ARE THREE SCENARIOS, WHICH ARE DEADLY FOR THE IMMORTALS RESPECTIVELY THE KESSENKI.

STRANGLING
THAT WAY AN IMMORTAL MIGHT DIE AS FAST AS ORDINARY HUMANS.


BASED ON THIS THREE SCENARIOS, WE'RE ABLE TO DEDUCE VARIOUS WAYS TO DIE FOR IMMORTALS.


FOR THE REASONS OF 2 AND 3, DEATH MIGHT OCCUR.
BURNING:
DEPENDING ON THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE - IF GREAT ENOUGH, DEATH OCCURRING BECAUSE OF REASON 3.
CRUSHING:
DROWNING:
AS IN THE CASE OF STRANGLING, DEATH MIGHT OCCUR BECAUSE OF REASON 1.
STARVING
IF AN IMMORTAL IS IMPRISONED WITHOUT ANY FOOD FOR A MONTH, DEATH MIGHT HAPPEN EASILY

BURNING OR CRUSHING IS MORE FUN
STARVING IS TOO BORING...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WELL ...
BWAH, HA, HA!
CAN'T YOU THINK OF MORE VARIETIES OF DEATH, THAT AREN'T WRITTEN DOWN ALREADY?!
YOU'RE A MORON, RENZO!

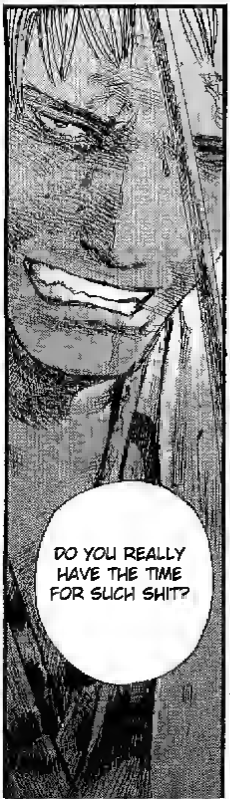
YOU CAN TORTURE THAT GUY IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT WAYS WITHOUT KILLING HIM!!
I CAN THINK ABOUT THE WAY I'M GONNA KILL HIM LATER...
THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
IMPOR-TANT IS ...

HUH?

BWAH! HAHA!! HAHA!!
... THAT GREAT!
YOU AREN'T ...
MANJI, MANJI ...
UAHH ...!!

WHAM!!
WHAT A SHAME.
HA HA HA!
HM?
WHAT IS THIS...?

HE CHANGED SOMEHOW.
BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING.
I KNOW HE'S NOW IMMORTAL TOO.


DO YOU REALLY HAVE THE TIME FOR SUCH SHIT?

ATTACKING, ESCAPING, ATTACKING, ESCAPING
HEY MANJI...

COM-PARED TO ME.
SOME-THING ABOUT HIM IS DIFFERENT ...

DON'T SAY...

I SAID THAT THE LITTLE BITCH IS STILL ALIVE, BUT...
REMEMBER?
NOT THAT I CARE, BUT...
.....
...THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT SHE'S IN SAFETY.

RIN ...!
CHAPTER 160 END

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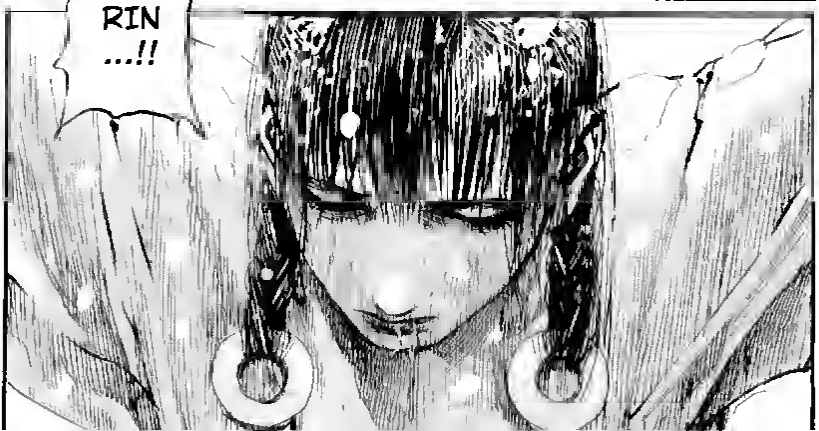
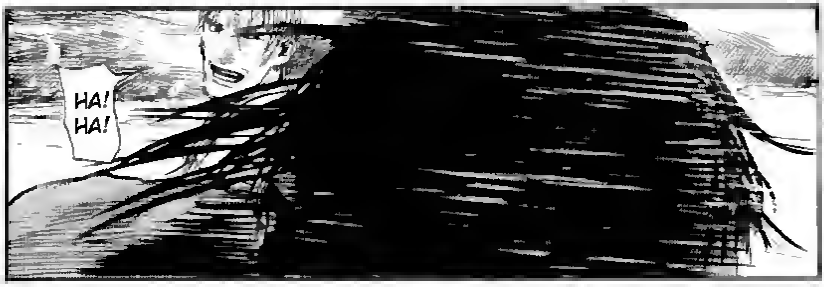
CHAPTER 161
THROUGH THE DEEP SNOW
PART 1


RIN
...!!


HA!
HA!

KYAA!!

BUT DON'T WO...
YOU COULD THINK OF THAT MUCH EARLIER...
HA, HA HA!
YOU'RE HEARTLESS!
YOU ASS-HOLE!!
GET OUT OF MY WAY!!!

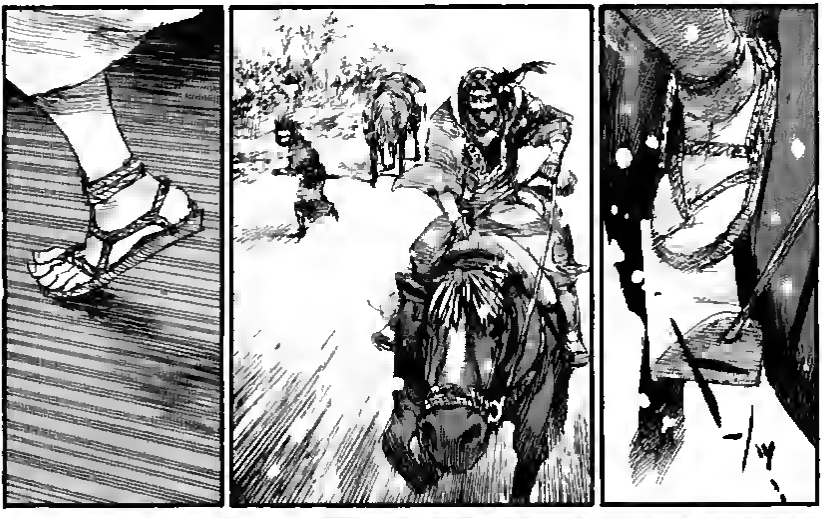
ONCE IT'S ABOUT THE GIRL, HE GETS STRAIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS...
HOW FIERCE ...
PFAH ...!

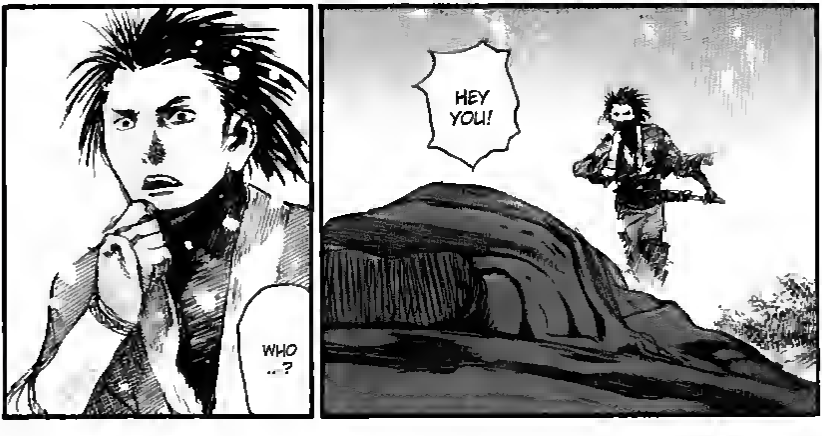
HUF
..
HUF
..
PUUH
...
DAMN, HOW FAR DID HE...
HUH?

ARGH!
ブルル!
FUCK!

HEY BOSS!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT.
MOVE ALONG TO OUR GUYS!

WE'LL WAIT IN HITACHI FOR YOU!
UNDER-STOOD.




HEY YOU!
WHO ...?

PUUUH ...!
SUR-PRISE ME.
DAMN, YOU SURE DID.

AREN'T YOU...

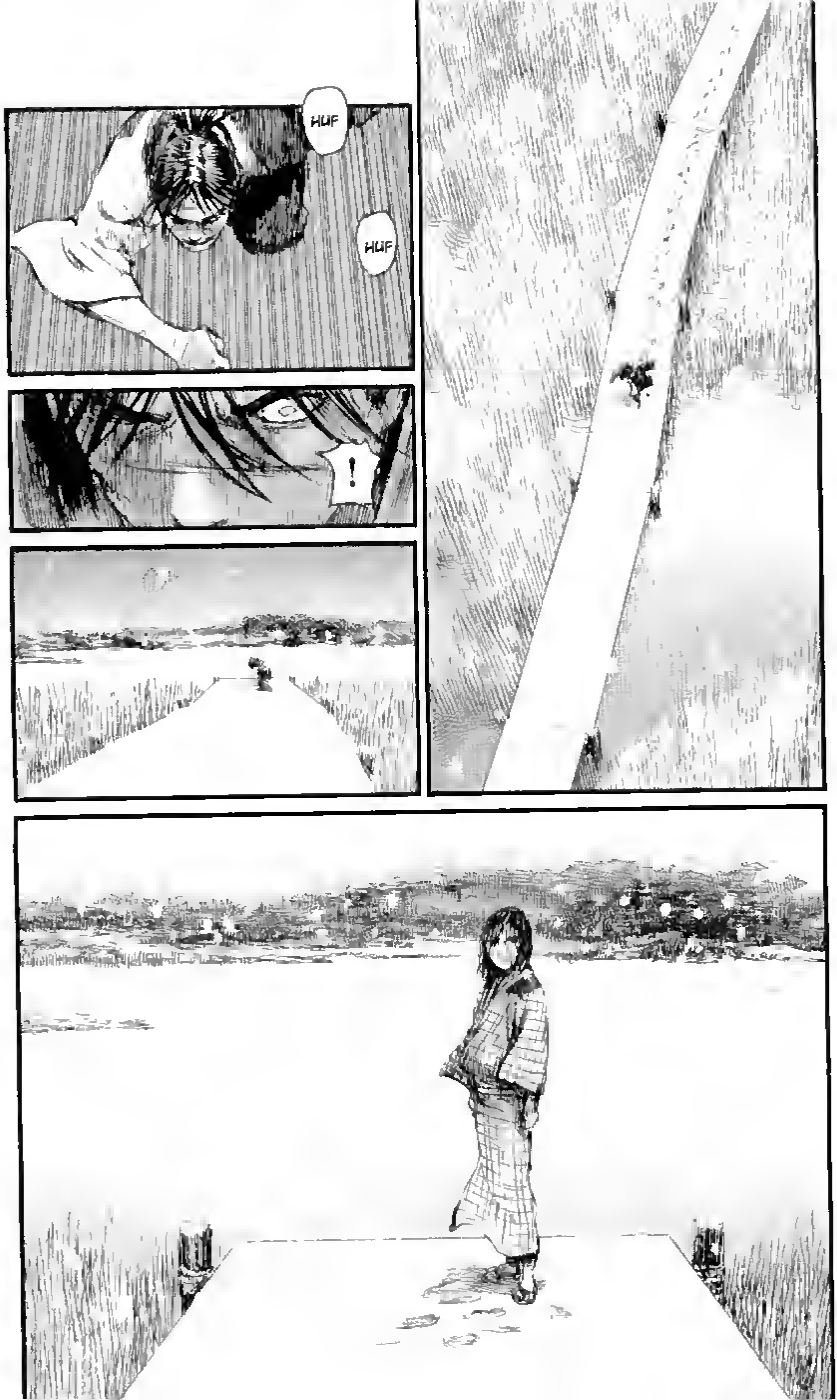
OH!

HUH?..
GRHG!
WHY...
...
ARE YOU?
WHAT IS THIS CRAP?!

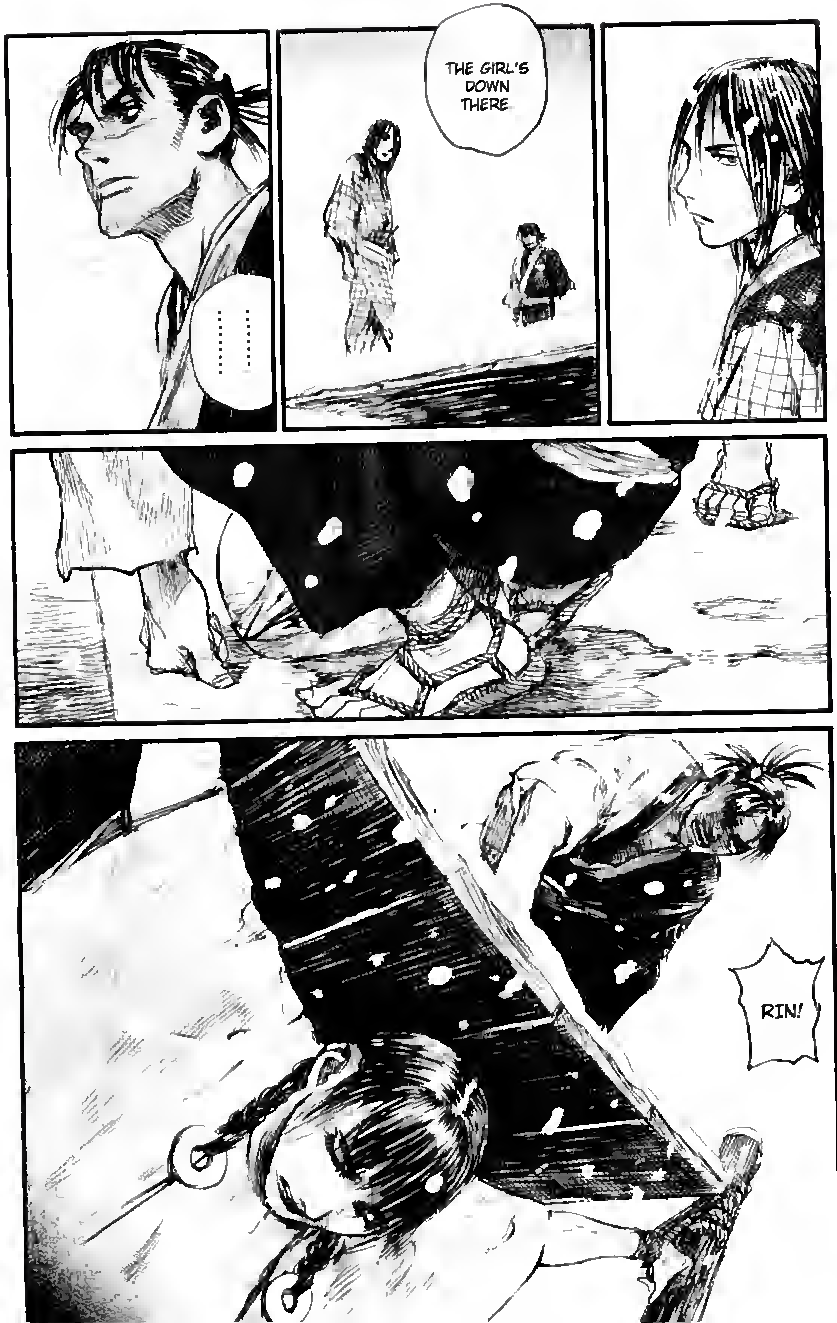
ANGH!

YOU SON OF A ...!
UH...

KYA!
AH!
GRAH!


HUF
HUF
!

HELLO...
.....


THE GIRL'S DOWN THERE
RIN!

MAN...
AH!
TSS!

UNGH...

HOP!

THAT'S NOT GOOD ...
SHIT..

WHAT?!
CHAPTER 161 END

❖第百六十二幕❖
罪々として
――〈其の二〉――

CHAPTER 162
THROUGH DEEP SNOW PART 2

.....!!
SHIT ...
I DROPPED MY KNIFE WHILE I WAS HOLDING HER ...

DAMNIT ...!
HI
HEY!

PLEASE
...
...
IT'S SHEER TORMENT TO CLIMB UP WITH ONLY ONE ARM...
BRING ME ONE OF MY BLADES...
YOU CAN ...
WHEN THIS IS OVER

I KNOW...
... RAM ALL MY REMAINING SWORDS INTO MY BODY.
... I DESERVE IT.
BUT NOT THE GIRL!
SHE JUST STOOD THERE HELPLESS WHILE I KILLED YOUR FATHER
HER ONLY MISDEED WAS NOT TO TELL YOU THAT I'M STILL ALIVE.
I KILLED YOUR FATHER BE-CAUSE OF A PALTRY SUM OF MONEY.
CAN YOU FORGIVE HER?
OR ... MAYBE IT'S THAT...
IF YOU'RE ON OUR SIDE, I WON'T SAY A THING ANYMORE.
BUT..
IF NOT...

ONE SINGLE SWORD IS ENOUGH!
PLEASE!
REN ZO!

WELL, WELL ..
.. LOOK WHAT WE'VE GOT HERE! SUCH A PRETTY COLLECTION OF WEAPONS.

USE YOUR NOGGIN. TO CUT THE ROPE IS NOT ENOUGH
MANJI, MANJI!
... YOU COULD REACH DRY LAND WITH THE GIRL IN YOUR ARM ...
ASSUMING YOU'RE INCREDIBLY STRONG...
... WHEN YOU SCRAPE ALONG THE PLANK WITH YOUR OTHER ARM

BWAH...
HMMM?
HM?
YOU DON'T HAVE AN OTHER ARM! HA, HA, HA!
I'M SORRY! I KNOW, I KNOW.
SXF HA HA HA!

I COULD MAKE IT WITH MY "SHABBY" HAND.
THAT'S A SAD THING, MANJI.

YOU PIECE OF SHIT!
SHIRA!
!
BUT WHAT'S THE USE OF THAT NOW?
... A HUMAN MIGHT HAVE A GOOD CHANCE TO SURVIVE.
A DOCTOR TOLD ME...
AS LONG AS YOUR HEART IS ABOVE THE WATER ...
THIS IS WHAT YOU GET!
FOR RUNNING AWAY IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR BATTLE...
BUT DIDN'T I TELL YOU BEFORE?
YOU SHOULD HAVE KILLED ME BEFORE YOU WENT HERE

...THIS WAY IT'S MUCH MORE DANGEROUS FOR RIN.
TO BE EXACT..
KCH..

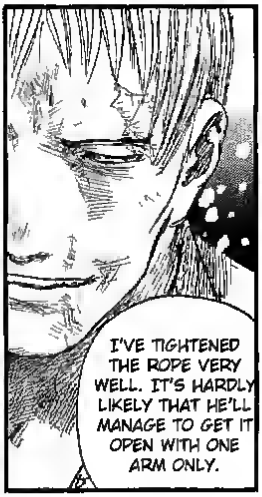
WHAT ...?
THERE'S ANOTHER GUY I HAVE TO KILL.

RENZO...
WATCH THEM AS LONG AS YOU WANT.

DON'T WORRY! MANJI MIGHT NOT COME UP AGAIN.

BESIDES THAT, YOU KNOW EXACTLY ...

AND EVEN ... IF
RIN WON'T MAKE IT THAT LONG.

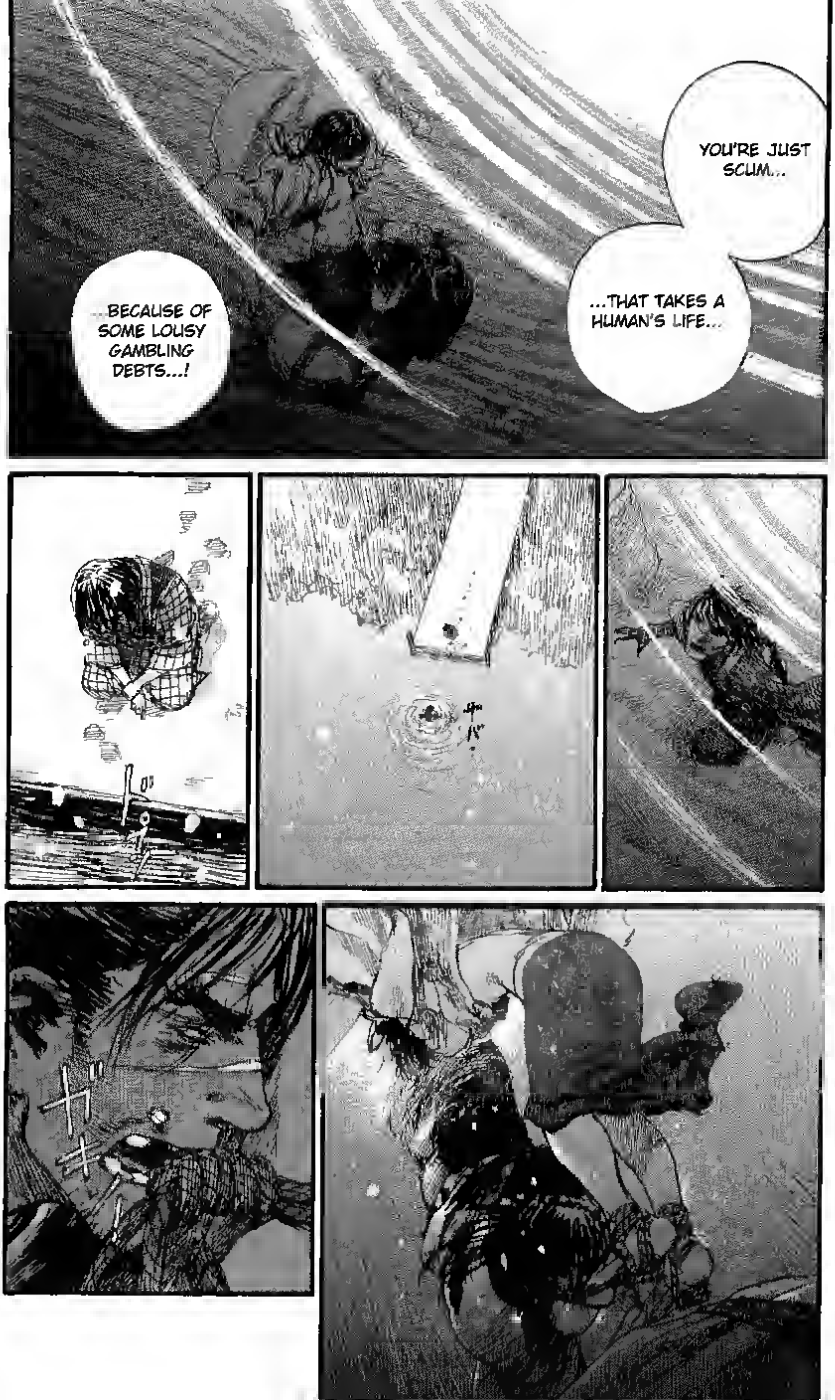

I'VE TIGHTENED THE ROPE VERY WELL. IT'S HARDLY LIKELY THAT HE'LL MANAGE TO GET IT OPEN WITH ONE ARM ONLY.

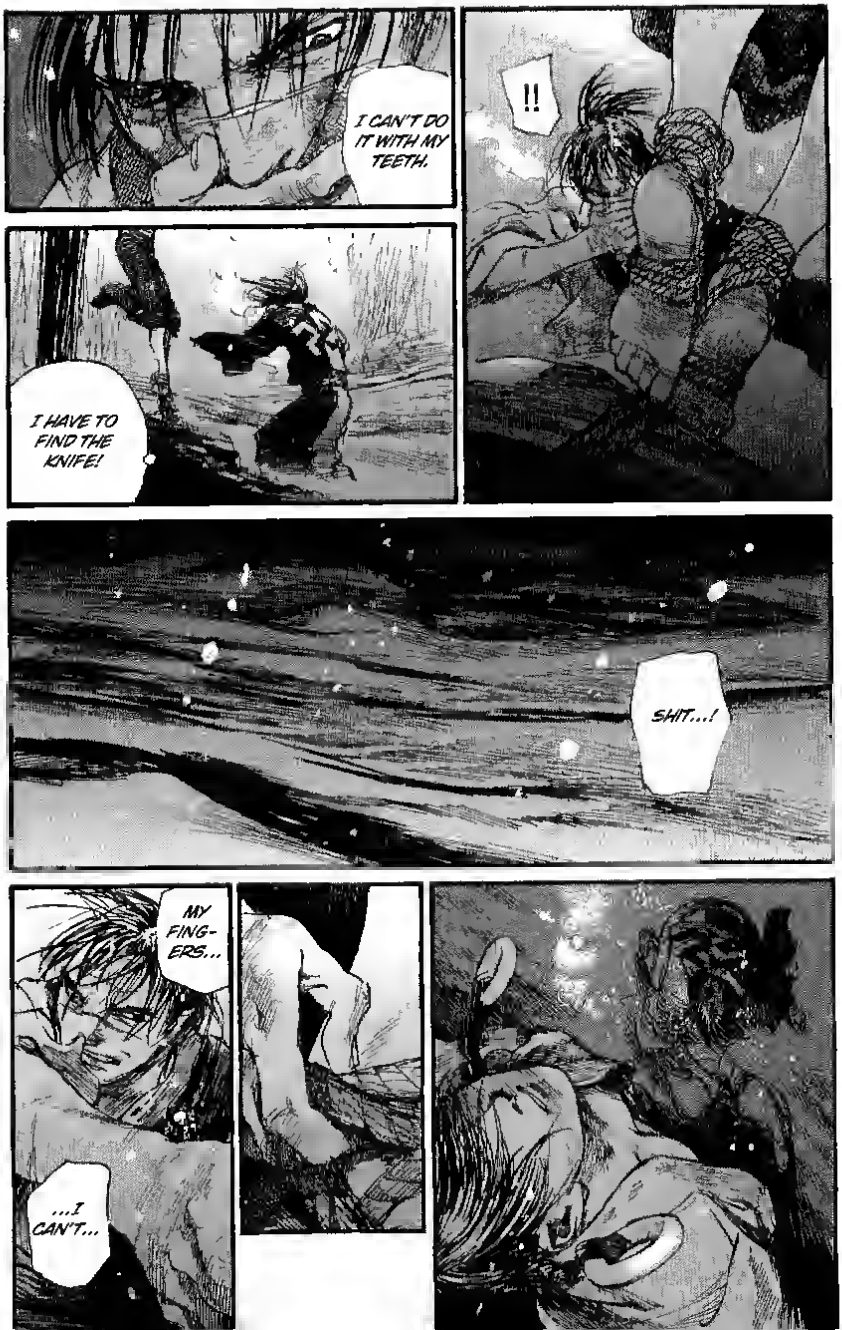
IF IT'S TRUE WHAT WAS WRITTEN IN THE LETTER...
...HE'LL KICK THE BUCKET EITHER WAY.
AGAINST THIS COLD...
...HIS BLOOD-WORMS ARE NO USE.
LOVELY...
ISN'T IT, RENZO?

WELL..
...THAT ENDED FASTER THAN I EXPECTED.
HE HE
AGAINST HEAT OR COLD WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE.
I ACTUALLY EXPECTED IT TO BE MORE FUN.
...YOU ARE SUPPOSELY IMMORTAL, HA HA!
EVEN IF...
MANJI...
TO BE HONEST...

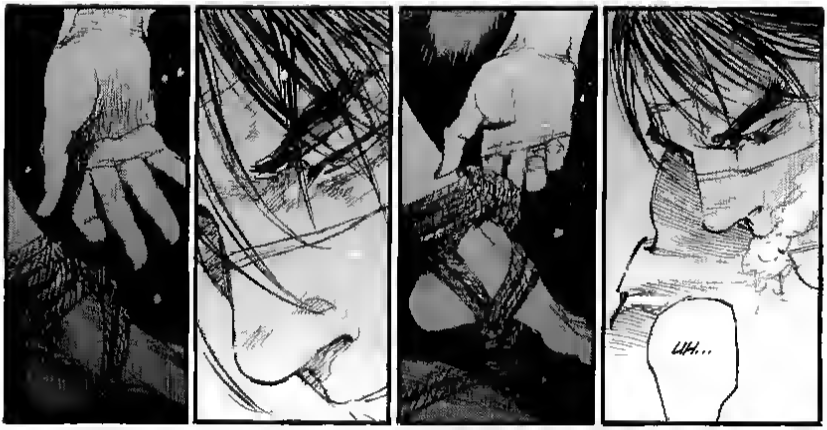
IN TRUTH ...
... I AM WAITING FOR YOU TO GIVE UP THE GIRL AND COME UP ALONE.
... IF YOU DROWN OR FREEZE TO DEATH, IT WON'T MAKE ME HAPPY AT ALL.
I WON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST YOU, I GUESS.
IF THAT HAPPENS ...
I WOULDN'T MIND BEING SLAUGHTERED BY YOU.
BUT THEN...

I DON'T KNOW
.....
...
IN WHICH KIND OF RELATIONSHIP
...
...YOU ARE WITH HER.
BUT YOU'RE NOT THAT KIND OF HUMAN TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS, ARE YOU ...?


YOU'RE JUST SCUM...
...THAT TAKES A HUMAN'S LIFE...
...BECAUSE OF SOME LOUSY GAMBLING DEBTS...!


I CAN'T DO IT WITH MY TEETH.
!!
I HAVE TO FIND THE KNIFE!
SHIT...!
MY FING-ERS...
...I CAN'T...

...MOVE THEM ANYMORE.


UH...

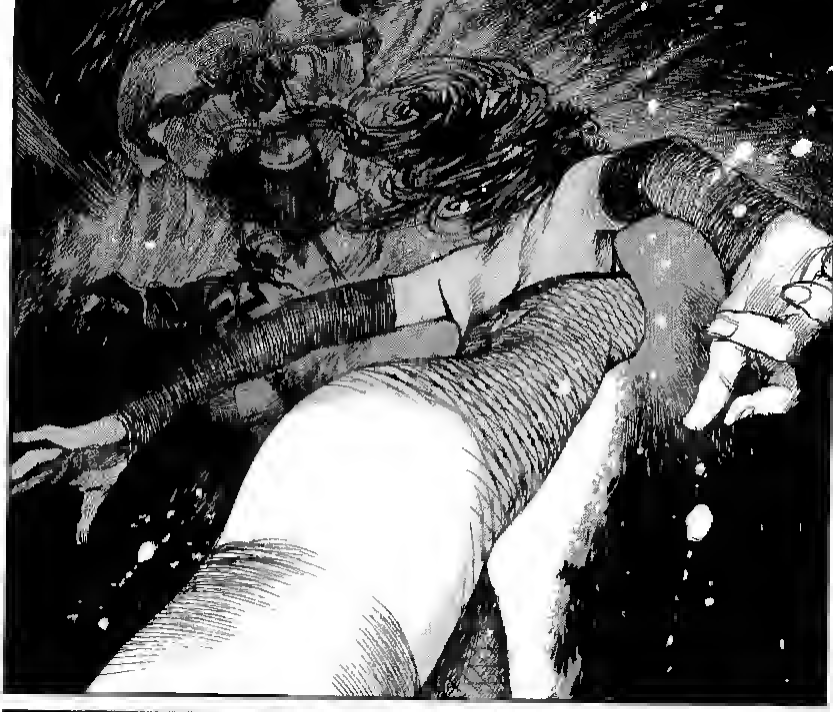
HE WON'T COME UP AGAIN ...
IS HE DEAD?
IT TOOK TOO MUCH TIME ALREADY.
HE'S DEAD FOR SURE.
くっ……

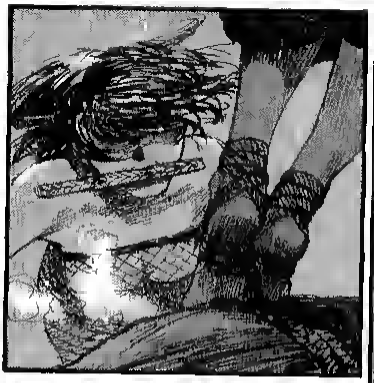
DAMNIT!
WHAT IS THIS...?
.....
ARG.....

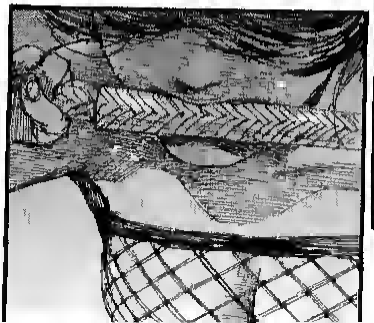
ドサッ
!?

UMPF...!

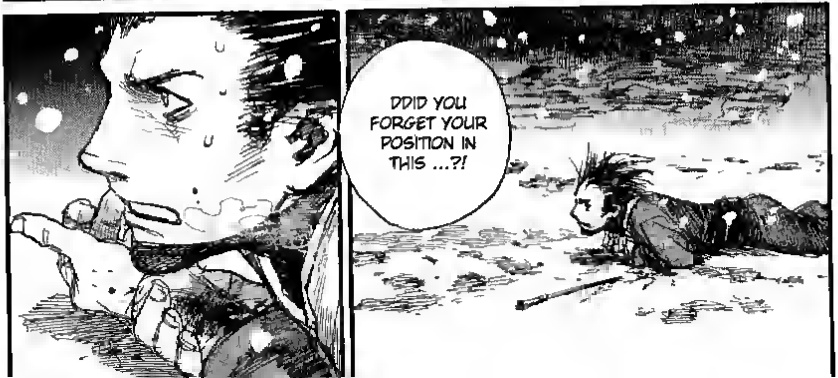
ドォォォ
……







.....
HEY YOU!


DDID YOU FORGET YOUR POSITION IN THIS ...?!

WHAT...
...IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
HOW CAN YOU ASK?
YOU'RE A FILTHY SON OF A BITCH!!
VOLUME 24 END

Translation: Nagashiwa & Takekura
Anotsuu Translate
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Appendix

The following spread was the cover picture for AFTERNOON to honor the anime-series of "Blade of the Immortal".

Afterwards several pages are following which my assistant Joji commited in a guerilla activity under the title "previously on Blade of the Immortal" for the AFTERNOON magazine. Since various readers thought that that was much more funnier than the main story, there's nothing else for it but to fill the empty pages of this volume with it. Even if it's quite annoying.

淺野道場復興會

月刊アフタヌーン2007年10月号 あらすじページより

TRANSLATION BY NAGASHIWA & TAKEKURA
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BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL

凛 GIANT RIN

(by Jeji Kootoko)

What happened so far:
Stealing forbidden!
Cool text!
Mother
Murderer
Today is the day of THEIR death.
Father
The story of an angel -
That's why she didn't care when her parents were killed.
Nearly seven feet.
Rin is a giant brood.
COLD BEETLES
Tomfool
Stand up!
Go to heaven!
One, two, three!
Murderers, murderers, murderers everywhere.
TAKE ME!
To good teamwork!
y-YES...
She sells her body to hire a bodyguard
I am Monji
Get yourself a bodyguard
He's a cutie!
Because she hasn't got anything better to do she heads off to avenge her parents
No wonder that you're cold!
He he!
Be thankful!
Those two are on their way to Hitachi
END
Who is the bodyguard now?
Are you hurt Monji?
Oh, and that happened in the last chapter
RECORD ∞m
Nobody can take on Giant Rin!

月刊アフタヌーン2007年12月号 あらすじページより

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That's what female fans have been waiting for! Promotion for Women.

I wanted to draw Anotsu!

Rokki-dan, rundown to broads

The rose gang!

BARAGUMI RYO

Part1

The honor of a spoiled broad!

What a disgrace!

Shame on you!

まんが:ジョージ・アサカラ

The vice of Itto-Ryu!

Taito Magatsu

It won't take long, kiddo

You do what the vice says, right?

Guilty

He's propably the number three..

..after Magatsu.

And there.

Sukezano Baro

HA! HA! HA!

I want Yoe

Silly boy!

D-don't do that..!

how strong the others are?

But who knows

uaaah!

We're nine..

The second-strongest fighter of Itto-Ryu!

◆敵陣につづく

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Rokki-den, rundown to broads

The rose gang!

BARAGUMI RYO

Part2

月刊アフタヌーン2008年2月号 KC広告ページより

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